

Abuse of Older Adults

Abuse can happen to anyone. Financial abuse is the most commonly reported form of abuse for older adults, but there are many other types. This chapter talks about laws that aim to protect older adults from different forms of abuse.

*See the chapter on **Dating and Relationships** for more about abuse that happens when people date or are in a relationship.*





This publication explains the law in a general way as it applies in Nova Scotia, Canada. The information is not intended as legal advice. If you have a legal problem, contact a lawyer for advice about what steps you should take in your situation. We thank the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Department of Justice Canada, and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice for providing core funding for our services, which makes publications like this possible.

Contents

What is abuse of older adults?	5
Is abuse of older adults a crime?	6
What can the police do?	7
Help for victims in a criminal case.....	8
I am mentally and physically competent and I am being financially abused. Where can I go for help?	9
How are seniors in health care facilities protected from abuse?.....	10
What kinds of abuse are older adults in health facilities protected against?.....	10
What happens if I report abuse of a person in a care facility?.....	11
Will the police be involved?	11
Adult Protection Services	11
How are seniors protected from abuse where they live?.....	11
Does the Adult Protection Act protect older adults against financial abuse?	12
How do I report abuse or neglect of a senior in their home or community?	12
What happens if I report abuse of an older adult in their home?	13
What kind of services does Adult Protection provide?.....	13
Who pays for these services?	14
Does an older adult have to agree to an assessment by Adult Protection Services?	14
Who decides whether a senior needs protection?	14
What is a protective intervention order?	15
Can a senior be removed from their home?	15
How long does a court order last?.....	16
Is the judge’s decision final?	16
What happens to the abuser?.....	16
Is there a register of abusers?.....	16
What can I do if I suspect an older adult is being abused by a representative?.....	17
What is the Domestic Violence Intervention Act?	17

ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS



What if an older adult faces abuse online or on social media? 18

Where can I get more information on abuse of older adults? 19

Seniors' Safety Programs 20

Victim Services..... 23

General legal information 24

What is abuse of older adults?

Abuse of older adults is any action that threatens the health, safety, or well-being of an older person. It is also called senior abuse or elder abuse. Abuse can be acts, words, or neglect. It may happen once or over a period of time. Sadly, most abuse of older adults comes from a family member, friend, or caregiver. The most common types of abuse are listed below.

- **Financial abuse** is when someone takes your money or does not let you have your money or misuses your money. They might steal cash, cheques, or savings. They may take your money by using your bank card or demand access to your online bank account. They may threaten or prevent you from having contact with your grandchildren or others you love unless you give them money or gifts. They may demand you sign a debt, lease or loan with them. Or they might demand that you get a loan and that you give them all of the money. They might pretend to be you in order to get your money from your bank account. Or they might misuse your money, property, or authority such as a power of attorney. For more information about misuse of power of attorney and ways to protect yourself, see the chapter on Powers of Attorney.
- **Physical abuse** is when someone hurts you by punching, kicking, slapping, shaking, pushing, burning, throwing objects, scalding you with hot water, or in other ways. It also includes using physical restraints, locking you in a room, or giving you the wrong medication on purpose.
- **Sexual abuse** is any form of sexual activity that is not wanted – it is without your consent. Some examples of sexual abuse are unwanted sexual comments, intercourse, touching or fondling, or kissing.
- **Emotional, psychological or mental abuse** is when someone uses words to hurt you. This includes when someone:
 - calls you names, uses put-downs, threatens, blames, bullies, teases, or humiliates you
 - cuts off your contact with friends and family, stops you from having visitors, or threatens to do these things
 - makes hurtful or cruel comments
 - constantly criticizes, insults or belittles you
 - controls or frightens you
 - threatens to harm you, or to harm people you care about or your pets
 - encourages you to commit suicide
 - uses your friends or relationships to harm you. This includes spreading rumours, gossiping, excluding you from a group or making you look foolish or unintelligent
 - threatens to put you in an institution.

A

- **Neglect** is when an abuser does not give you your basic needs, like food, medical care, shelter, general care, or clothing. Sometimes, a family member or caregiver might neglect the person they are caring for. “Self-neglect” is when you cannot or will not care properly for yourself and do not want and refuse to have someone else help you.
- **Denial of rights** is when an abuser keeps you from doing what you have the right to do. They might keep important information from you. They might open your mail without your permission. They may prevent you from going to your faith or cultural events. They might restrain you, which means holding or tying you down. Or they might confine you, which means keep you in a place you do not want to be.
- **Online abuse** is when someone harasses or hurts you online, using email, texting, instant messaging or other technologies. They might share private photos of you without your consent, or they might harass you online or on social media or track your electronic communications. They might encourage you to commit suicide. Online abuse is sometimes also called cyber-abuse or cyber-bullying.
- **Harassment**, including stalking, is any unwanted physical or verbal behaviour that offends, threatens or humiliates you. It may also include following you and not leaving you alone.
- **Coercive and controlling abuse** is a pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling or dominating another person. There may be physical abuse, together with emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other forms of abuse. Coercive and controlling abuse is very dangerous because it is part of an ongoing pattern and tends to be more serious.

Is abuse of older adults a crime?

Some forms of abuse of older adults are a crime. A crime is a violation of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. The Criminal Code applies to all of Canada. The following lists some criminal offences that may apply if an older adult is being abused:

Financial abuse

- Theft, including theft by a person who has power of attorney
- Fraud and fraud with a credit card
- Robbery
- Breaking and entering
- Forgery and using forged documents
- Extortion (using threats or violence to make a person do something)
- Criminal breach of trust
- Stopping mail with intent to rob or search it

Physical Abuse

- Assault ('common' assault, assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault)
- Sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon
- Forcible confinement
- Murder or manslaughter
- Administering a noxious substance
- Counselling suicide

Emotional, psychological or mental abuse

- Threats to harm
- Criminal harassment (also called 'stalking'), including repeated unwanted contact
- Intimidation

Neglect

- Criminal negligence causing bodily harm or death
- Breach of duty to provide necessities of life

What can the police do?

If you have been abused or neglected or think someone else is being abused or neglected, reporting it to the police may be an important part of protecting yourself or supporting the person being abused. Reporting abuse to the police is one way to possibly stop abuse now and to prevent it from happening again. If it is not reported the abuse may continue.

Anyone can report abuse of older adults to the police. The police can investigate the report. This might include getting:

- a statement from the victim
- a statement from the accused
- statements from neighbours, family members, or service providers who might have evidence
- photographs of any injuries
- a medical report
- financial records
- any other evidence that is relevant to the complaint.



ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS

The police will investigate and decide whether to lay charges against the person accused of abuse. They will lay charges only if they have enough proof to convict the abuser in court.

A

Help for victims in a criminal case

Fear is a major reason abuse is not reported. A victim may be worried about reporting abuse or giving evidence in court. Some victims of abuse may not be physically or mentally able to do this on their own. The victim may be afraid of the abuser, or the abuser might be someone the victim cares about, including a family member, and the victim may want to maintain family relationships. The victim may be dependent on the abuser.

Victims of abuse who are asked to testify in court can get help and support from a victim services program. Nova Scotia's Provincial Victim Services Program offers victims of crime information and support as a case moves through the criminal justice system, and can be reached 1-888-470-0773 or get information at https://novascotia.ca/just/victim_services/

Judges can order things to make it easier for vulnerable older adults to testify in court. These may include:

- allowing a support person to be there while the victim testifies
- allowing the victim to testify remotely or behind a screen
- having a lawyer do the cross-examination when the accused is self-represented, so that the victim is not questioned directly by the accused
- ordering a publication ban so that identifying information is kept private
- ordering that some members of the public not be allowed in the court.

Even if the abuse is not a crime, police or victim services can give information and refer to various community supports for help addressing and stopping the abuse. Some community supports are listed at the end of this chapter.



Remember: Abuse is never the victim's fault. People in healthy relationships are not violent or abusive with each other. No one has the right to be violent or abusive with other people. It is always best to reach out to someone you trust for help, even if you choose not to go to the police about the abuse.

I am mentally and physically competent and I am being financially abused. Where can I go for help?

A

Financial abuse can happen to anyone. It is the most commonly reported form of abuse of older adults. Remember, you are not alone.

Financial abuse may include the following:

- manipulating or threatening you to gain access to your money or property. For example, forcing you to make or change important documents like your will or a power of attorney, or to sign a contract for a loan
- theft, including from joint bank accounts
- forgery. For example, someone signing your name to cash a cheque
- fraud (someone tricking you to get money from you)
- abusing your power of attorney.

If you are being financially abused, you may want to:

- contact NS 211 for support and information about community resources that can help
- talk to a lawyer or someone else you trust. Contact a lawyer you know, or get in touch with the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia for legal information or help [finding a lawyer](#)
- talk to the police. Financial abuse such as theft, theft by a person who has power of attorney, forgery, and fraud are crimes under the Criminal Code of Canada.



Keep your paperwork and records. You might need records for a police investigation or if you go to court. Records can include emails or text messages, a diary of events, copies of cancelled cheques, and copies of legal documents.

Also see the chapters on *Scams, Identity Theft and Other Fraud* and *Powers of Attorney*.

A

How are seniors in health care facilities protected from abuse?

Abuse can happen to patients and residents of provincially regulated facilities, including health care and community homes. Nova Scotia's [Protection for Persons in Care Act](#) helps to protect patients and residents 16 years of age and older from abuse.

The facilities include:

- hospitals
- residential care facilities
- nursing homes
- homes for the aged or long term care homes
- homes for people with disabilities including small options homes
- group homes
- residential centres.

A service provider who is doing their duties and following recognized standards and practices and their policies and procedures is not abusing their patients or residents.

Facility staff must protect patients and residents from abuse and keep them reasonably safe. If you report abuse to them, or if they suspect or see abuse, they must report it to the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care. Anyone can report abuse by contacting Continuing Care toll free at 1-800-225-7225, or the police.



What kinds of abuse are older adults in health facilities protected against?

Under the *Protection for Persons in Care Act* abuse may be any of the following:

- physical
- sexual
- emotional
- misuse of medication
- neglect
- misuse or theft of money or possessions.

The Act does not protect against all financial abuse. It protects against misuse or theft of money or possessions belonging to a patient or resident in the facility.

If you believe that a senior in care is the victim of financial abuse and cannot look after their affairs, you should talk with them. You might also talk to someone who is close to the senior, like a family member, who may be able to help the senior.

You can also call the police. Some financial abuse, like fraud or theft, is a crime. A senior who is being financially abused should talk to the police and to a lawyer.

What happens if I report abuse of a person in a care facility?

If you believe a person in a care facility is being abused, you can report the abuse to the police or to the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care, toll-free at 1-800-225-7225.

The Department will tell the patient or resident that someone has reported abuse and that the Department will investigate the situation. The investigator will write a report. They might make recommendations to protect the patient or resident or to investigate the matter more.

Will the police be involved?

The police will be involved if there is proof that the abuse is a criminal offence. This would happen if the investigator found evidence of a crime like physical assault, sexual assault, theft, or fraud. If a caregiver failed to care for a senior, they could be charged with neglect.

Adult Protection Services

How are seniors protected from abuse where they live?

Some adults live in their own homes even though they no longer have the physical or mental ability to care for themselves, or they might live with family members. The [Adult Protection Act](#) helps to protect them from physical, sexual, and mental abuse as well as from neglect. It does not protect them from financial abuse.

The *Adult Protection Act* protects adults who are “in need of protection.” This means a person who is 16 years old or older and who:

- has a physical or mental disability
- is abused or neglected where they live
- cannot protect themselves from the abuse or neglect
- refuses, delays, or cannot provide for their own care.

The *Adult Protection Act* does not aim to punish abusers but to protect people from harm.

A

Does the Adult Protection Act protect older adults against financial abuse?

Sometimes a person physically abuses or neglects an older adult to get money or property or for access to their bank account. If someone reports this abuse to Adult Protection Services, they will investigate. The investigation and steps taken by Adult Protection Services to protect an older adult from the physical abuse or neglect may stop the financial abuse.

If you believe an older adult is being financially abused and is unable to look after their affairs, you should talk with them, even if there is no physical abuse or neglect. You might also talk to a trusted person who is close to the senior (such as a family member) who may be able to help.

You can also contact the Public Trustee or the police. The Nova Scotia Public Trustee's Office has the right to act for certain people who cannot take care of their own affairs. The Public Trustee will look into your complaint and may talk with the police or the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care. You can get more information on the Public Trustee's website at novascotia.ca/just/pto/ or call the Nova Scotia Public Trustee at 902-424-7760.

Some financial abuse is a crime, for example, stealing, forging a signature, or misusing a power of attorney. A senior who is being financially abused should talk to the police and to a lawyer.

For more information, see the chapters on the *Public Trustee, Adult Capacity and Decision-making, and Powers of Attorney*.

How do I report abuse or neglect of a senior in their home or community?

Anyone can report abuse or neglect to Adult Protection Services, or you can report it to local police. You can call Adult Protection Services toll-free at 1-800-225-7225.

Often community agencies that have contact with a senior may report abuse or neglect. Sometimes the police or health care professionals do. It does not matter if the information is confidential — if they know it, they must report it. Relatives, neighbours, friends and even strangers also report abuse or neglect.

You do not have to be sure that abuse or neglect is taking place if you want to make a report, but you must have good reason to believe that the senior needs some protection.

If you are wrong about the abuse or neglect, you are protected from being sued if you had good reason to make the report. Someone can sue you only if you made your report without good reason.

If you report abuse or neglect, your identity is confidential. However, if the case goes to court, you may have to give evidence. Then your identity would become known.

It is an offence not to report abuse or neglect of an adult who needs protection. Anyone who fails to report could be charged. If convicted, the maximum penalty is a fine of up to \$1,000 or prison for up to one year, or both.

What happens if I report abuse of an older adult in their home?

If you report abuse or neglect of an adult in their home or community, Adult Protection Services must find out if there is reason to believe that the adult is in need of protection. It may investigate in one of the following ways:

- visiting the adult's home
- talking with the adult
- meeting with the person accused of the abuse
- meeting with you, as the person who reported the abuse
- asking a doctor to assess the adult's level of capacity, their need for care and attention, and whether they have been abused
- talking with the adult's family, doctor, caregivers, and neighbours.

If the investigation shows that the adult can make competent decisions and that they are not refusing help because of threats or coercion, then Adult Protection Service will end its investigation. It may suggest services that the adult can use, but it cannot force the senior to use these services.

If adult protection workers find proof that an adult needs protection, they must help them get services to make things better.

If there has been a criminal offence, the Adult Protection Service must report it to the police.



What kind of services does Adult Protection provide?

Adult Protection does not provide services itself. Adult Protection workers help the adult or the adult's family find the services they need and can get in the community. Services can include help in their own home or meals on wheels. They may talk with the senior about living somewhere else, such as shared housing, seniors' apartments, and homes for special care. They can give them priority on waitlists for government services like nursing homes.



Who pays for these services?

The adult is expected to pay for these services if they can afford to. Some privately run services charge fees based on what users can afford to pay. Some services are run by volunteers. If the adult cannot afford to pay, the province will.

Does an older adult have to agree to an assessment by Adult Protection Services?

If Adult Protection Services is concerned a senior is unable to look after their own needs and is at risk of abuse or neglect, they may ask the senior to have an assessment. If the senior refuses the assessment, or if their caregiver refuses, Adult Protection Services may ask for a court order authorizing entry into the senior's home. If the judge orders an assessment, Adult Protection Services will be able to go into the place where the senior lives so that it can do the assessment. The Adult Protection worker may ask a doctor to assess the senior's level of capacity to make decisions.

Usually, the senior will get at least four days' notice before entry is ordered. In an emergency, a judge can allow entry without notice.

Who decides whether a senior needs protection?

If Adult Protection Services believes that a senior needs protection but is refusing help, they can ask the court for an order that says that the senior needs protection. A judge then holds a court hearing to decide the matter.

If the adult protection worker believes that a senior is in immediate danger, they can take the senior into care until a hearing can take place.

Before making an order that an adult needs protection, a judge must be satisfied that:

- the senior is a victim of abuse or neglect in the place where they live
- the senior is refusing services from Adult Protection Services either because they do not have the mental capacity to decide or because they are afraid of harm from the abuser if they accept the services.

After hearing the evidence, if a judge finds that the senior needs protection, they will make a protective intervention order. The judge must be satisfied that someone is a threat to the senior in need of protection and that something more is needed to keep the senior safe from an abuser.

What is a protective intervention order?

A protective intervention order can order someone who may be a threat to a senior to:

- leave the place where the senior lives (unless that person owns or rents the place)
- have no contact or only some contact with the senior
- pay money to help support the senior.

Protective intervention orders may not be changed until at least three months have passed.

If a senior who needs protection does not have a representative decision-maker or if the representative is not protecting the senior's well-being and financial interests in decisions they make on the adult's behalf, the judge may notify the Public Trustee. The person we now call a representative used to be called a guardian in Nova Scotia.

Can a senior be removed from their home?

Yes. Adult Protection Services may remove a senior from their home right away if they believe that:

- the senior's life is in danger
- the senior needs protection
- the senior cannot decide whether to accept services
- the senior is being pressured not to accept services.

Within five days of removing a senior from their home, the Minister of Seniors and Long-term Care must either return the senior to their home or apply to the court for an order saying that the senior needs protection.

If a judge finds that the senior needs protection, the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care can place the senior in a home for special care, to make sure the senior is safe from abuse and is not being neglected.

The Public Trustee may be asked to manage the senior's property if there is a danger that the property will be lost, wasted, or damaged while the senior is in care. (For more information, see the chapter on the Public Trustee.)





How long does a court order last?

An order saying that an adult needs protection or a protective intervention order lasts for six months. The order will end at that time unless a further application is heard by the court.

An application can be made to the court to renew, change, or end the order before the six months are up. Those who may apply are the Minister of Seniors and Long-term Care, the senior, someone acting on the senior's behalf, or the person against whom an order is made. Any renewal of the order will end after six months, unless it is renewed again.

Is the judge's decision final?

No. A person could appeal the judge's decision to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court or to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal. If you are thinking about appealing, you should talk with a lawyer before deciding what to do.

What happens to the abuser?

The main purpose of the *Adult Protection Act* is to protect adults who need protection from abuse or neglect, not to punish people who abuse them. Investigation by Adult Protection Services may be enough to stop any more abuse.

People in abusive situations may be able to get counselling either as a victim or an abuser. A victim and an abuser would not usually get counselling together.

A protective intervention order can take an abuser out of the senior's home. A person who breaks a protective intervention order can be fined up to \$1,000 or sent to jail for up to one year or both. The senior may also be able to get a peace bond ('no-contact' court order) to stop an abuser from contacting them. The senior can call the police if an abuser breaks the peace bond.

The police might charge the abuser with a crime, as some types of abuse are a crime.

Is there a register of abusers?

No. Adult Protection Services keeps files on reports of abuse in private homes and facilities. The files are not generally available to the public. Family members can apply for information in these files under Nova Scotia's [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#). You can get more information at the Nova Scotia government website by searching for 'access to information'. The website is at novascotia.ca.

Criminal charges may be laid against the abuser in some situations. Abusers who are convicted of a criminal offence, such as assault, will have a criminal record.

What can I do if I suspect an older adult is being abused by a representative?

A

The Nova Scotia Public Trustee's Office looks into reports of abuse of older adults by their representatives. A representative is someone with legal authority, by court order, to act for an adult who cannot make their own decisions. This authority comes from the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act.

A representative must protect the adult's well-being and financial interests in any decision they make on the adult's behalf. The representative is permitted to do only the things listed in the representation order made by the court.

If you believe a representative is misusing their authority, you can complain to the Nova Scotia Public Trustee online at novascotia.ca/just/pto under "Adult Capacity and Decision-making," or by telephone at 902-424-7760.

For more information about representation orders and the responsibilities of a representative, see the chapter on the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act (representative decision-making).

What is the Domestic Violence Intervention Act?

The [Domestic Violence Intervention Act](#) is a Nova Scotia law that protects people from violence by a partner or spouse. It does not protect against financial abuse. The law says that a victim can be a person 16 years old or older who has been abused in certain situations. The first is by a partner, if the couple is living together or has lived together. Another is by the other parent of one of the victim's children, even if the parents never lived together. The act does not protect people from abuse by a child or parent.

The act allows a court to make an emergency protection order. The order can last up to 30 days and can say the following:

- the victim has custody of a child
- the victim can stay in, or return to, the home and the other partner is not allowed on the property for a period of time

ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS

A

- the victim has possession of property (such as a car, bank card, identification documents, health cards, and personal effects)
- the police can take the abuser's weapons
- the abuser cannot contact the victim.

An emergency protection order is only for situations that are serious and urgent. It is not meant to replace criminal law or family law options.

You can apply for an emergency protection order by calling 1-866-816-6555 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Police officers can apply before or after those hours on a victim's behalf.

The *Domestic Violence Intervention Act* provides a quick process of review, notice, and hearing before a judge. For more information and resources, go to www.legalinfo.org/family-law/family-violence or www.nsfamilylaw.ca/family-violence, or [talk to a lawyer](#).

What if an older adult faces abuse online or on social media?

The [Intimate Images and Cyber-protection Act](#) aims to protect people from cyberbullying, or from having intimate images of themselves shared without their consent.

Cyberbullying is when someone uses electronic communication, like email, text messaging, or social media, to harm your health or well-being. They might be doing this on purpose to hurt you or they might not care about hurting you.

Examples of cyberbullying include when someone:

- creates a website, blog, or profile to make others believe it is you
- shares your sensitive personal information online or breaks your confidence
- threatens, intimidates, harasses, or scares you online
- makes false statements about you
- engages in communications that are grossly offensive, indecent, or obscene
- encourages you to commit suicide.

Cyberbullying can also include encouraging or forcing someone else to do these things.

The law also protects you if someone shares a private intimate image of you, such as a photograph, film, or video, without your consent. An intimate image is one that is private, shows sexual activity or nudity or partial nudity. It is an image you have good reason to think will stay private.

Under Nova Scotia law, “distributed without your consent” means publishing, posting or sharing the image with others, without your permission. It could also mean that the person who shared them did not think about or care whether you would have agreed to share the images with others, and did not ask you.

For example, without asking you and to try to hurt you, a former partner posts a private, sexually explicit, intimate picture of you on Facebook that you had good reason to think was going to stay private.

If you have been bullied or harassed online, or by text or email, or had intimate pictures of you shared without your consent, you can speak with the police, or contact Nova Scotia’s CyberScan Unit.

CyberScan oversees Nova Scotia’s *Intimate Images and Cyber-protection Act*. Contact CyberScan at novascotia.ca/cyberscan/ or call 902-424-6990 or 1-855-702-8324.

Where can I get more information on abuse of older adults?

Adult Protection Services

If you know an older adult in Nova Scotia who needs protection, call 1-800-225-7225 (toll-free). Adult Protection Services can help if you are worried that an adult is being neglected, abused or harmed.

211

If you need information, support, or a referral related to abuse of an older adult, call the Nova Scotia 2-1-1 information and referral service. You can also find them online at ns.211.ca.

Supports are available for people of all genders, including trans, non-binary, two-spirited, and gender-diverse folks. Help is available through an interpreter in many languages. No matter where Nova Scotians live or how they identify, if they have concerns about their well-being, safety, and/or the safety of others, services are available any time of day or night and any day of the year. Supports include information, navigation, referrals, and brief intervention counselling.

2-1-1 can help you:

- find a safe place away from an abuser
- find information or advice about the law
- find victim services to help when you need it.



ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS

A

Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA)

An organization dedicated to the prevention of the abuse of older people in Canada. Their website has information about abuse and neglect issues concerning older adults. <https://cnpea.ca/en/>

Public Trustee's Office

Suite 501-1465 Brenton St.

P.O. Box 685

Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Tel: (902) 424-7760

Email: publictrustee@novascotia.ca

<https://novascotia.ca/just/pto/>

Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and Long-term Care

1741 Brunswick Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3X8

Email: seniors@novascotia.ca

1-844-277-0770 (toll-free)

902-424-0770 (metro)

902-424-0561 (fax)

Twitter: @NSSeniors

Seniors' Safety Programs

Western Region

Hants County

Hants County Seniors' Safety Association

Coordinator: Karen Crowe

Phone: 902-798-7173

Email: hantsseniorsafety@gmail.com

Kings County

Kings County Seniors' Safety Society

Coordinator: Michelle Parker

Phone: 902-542-3817

Email: michelle.parker@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Website: kingsseniorssafety.com

Annapolis County

Annapolis County Seniors' Safety Program Association

Coordinator: Sharon Elliott

Phone: 902-665-4481

Email: sharon.elliott@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Digby County

Digby and Area Seniors' Safety Society

Coordinator: Dawn Thomas

Phone: 902-245-2579 or 902-308-0544 (cell)

Email: dawn.thomas@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or seniorsafety@digby.ca

Website: www.digby.ca/seniors-safety-program.html

Municipality of Clare

Security for Seniors Association/Association des seniors en sécurité Municipality of Clare

Coordinator: Hélène Comeau

Phone: 902-645-2326

Email: helene.comeau@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or clareseniorsafety@gmail.com

Yarmouth County

Yarmouth County Seniors' Safety Program

Municipalities of Argyle and Yarmouth

Coordinators: Peggy Boudreau and Ashley Rhyno

Phone: 902-881-4099

Email: peggy.boudreau@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or Ashley.rhyno@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Shelburne County

Shelburne County Seniors' Safety & Services Society

Coordinator: Shawna Symonds

Phone: 1-800-565-0397 (toll-free)

Email: ssymonds@barringtonmunicipality.com

Website: <http://ourseniorservices.com/>

Queens County

Queens County Seniors' Safety Program

Coordinator: Shelley Walker

Phone: 902-350-0231

Email: s.walker@eastlink.ca

Lunenburg County

Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program

Coordinator: Chris Acomb

Phone: 902-543-3567

Email: chris.acomb@bridgewaterpolice.ca

ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS

Eastern Region

A

Cumberland County

Cumberland County Seniors' Safety Program

Coordinator: Trishe Colman

Phone: 902-664-4540

Email: cumberlandseniorsafety@gmail.com

Colchester County

Colchester County Seniors' Safety Program

Coordinator: Doug MacDonald

Phone: 902-890-1382

Email: dlMacDonald@truro.ca

Antigonish County

Antigonish Town and County Seniors' Safety Program

Program is currently under development.

Cape Breton

Richmond County

Richmond County Seniors' Safety & Social Inclusion Program

Coordinator: Michele MacPhee

Phone: 902-587-2800 ext: 5

Email: seniorsafetycoordinator.dkmchc@gmail.com

Victoria County

Victoria County Seniors' Safety Program

Coordinator: Cassandra Yonder

Phone: 902-295-3672

Email: seniorssafety@countyvictoria.ns.ca

Central Region

Halifax area

HRM Seniors' Safety Program

Coordinator: Esther Suh

Phone: 902-455-6393

Email: esther.suh@von.ca

Victim Services



Provincial Victim Services Program

Information, support, and help if you are a victim of crime, or the spouse or relative of a victim. Information about your case, help to write a victim impact statement, help to apply for money or counselling and get special help for vulnerable victims or a witness of a crime.

Website: https://novascotia.ca/just/victim_Services/programs.asp

Halifax or Dartmouth or the South Shore: 902-424-3309

Annapolis Valley: 902-679-6201 or 1-800-565-1805 toll-free

Northern Nova Scotia: 902-755-7110 or 1-800-565-7912 toll-free

Cape Breton: 902-563-3655 or 1-800-565-0071 toll-free

Halifax Regional Police Victim Services

Helps you in a crisis and after a crisis. Emotional support and help to find services. Help applying for a peace bond in the Halifax area.

<https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/programs-services/victim-services-halifax>

902-490-5300

Mi'kmaw Victim Support Services

Victim support for Indigenous people dealing with the criminal justice system. Provided by Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network

1-877-379-2042 (Cape Breton)

902-895-1141 (Mainland NS)

RCMP Victim Services

Information or emotional support after a crime.

1-888-995-2929

Independent Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors Program

2-1-1

novascotia.ca/SexualAssaultLegalAdvice

Up to 4 hours of free legal advice if you have been sexually assaulted and are 16 years old or older. You do not have to report to police or go to court to be able to use this service. They can help in English or French or use a free interpreter for other languages.

ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS

A

Peace Bond Information

- Legal Info Nova Scotia's information on [Peace Bonds at www.legalinfo.org](http://www.legalinfo.org)
- Visit www.courts.ns.ca or a Provincial Court near you for forms and information on how to apply for a Peace Bond.
- Peace Bond fact sheet at www.canada.ca/victims

General legal information

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS)

Legal Information Line

902-455-3135 | 1-800-665-9779

Email: questions@legalinfo.org

www.legalinfo.org